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# INFOMAT

## Weekly Bulletin

### Industrial Corporations' Statistics

Canadian industrial corporations recorded after-tax profits of \$2,173 million in the fourth quarter of 1976, a decrease of \$302 million (12.2%) from the corresponding period in 1975.

Total sales of \$61.0 billion in October-December 1976 showed an increase of \$5.0 billion (8.9%) from the fourth quarter of 1975. Assets were up \$4.2 billion (2.6%) from the third quarter of 1976 and \$12.9 billion (8.5%) from the fourth quarter of 1975.

(Please note that these figures represent the latest data for the fourth quarter of 1976 and supersede preliminary estimates released last month.)

For further information, order *Industrial Corporations, Financial Statistics, Fourth Quarter 1976* (61-003, \$1.75/\$7), or contact R.B. Smadella (613-996-2130), Business Finance Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

### Unemployment Insurance Statistics

Net benefit paid to claimants under the Unemployment Insurance Act reached \$395 million in January, an increase of 16% from the \$271 million disbursed a year earlier. The average weekly benefit at \$100.56 was up 10% from January 1976.

Persons receiving unemployment insurance benefits in January totalled 878,000, virtually unchanged from a year earlier.

Persons seeking benefit filed 267,000 claims in the latest month, down 12% from December and 4% less than in January 1976.

For further information, order the January 1977 issue of *Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act* (73-001, 40¢/\$4) or *Advance Unemployment Insurance Statistics* (73-001-p, no charge to subscribers), or contact George Fincham (613-992-7461), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V1.

### The Dairy Review

Canadian production of milk produced for all purposes in January amounted to an estimated 1,106,383,000 pounds, down 9.6% from January 1976.

For further information, order the February 1977 issue of *The Dairy Review* (23-001, 40¢/\$4), or contact C.M. Riach ((613-994-9974), Agriculture Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0L7.

### LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

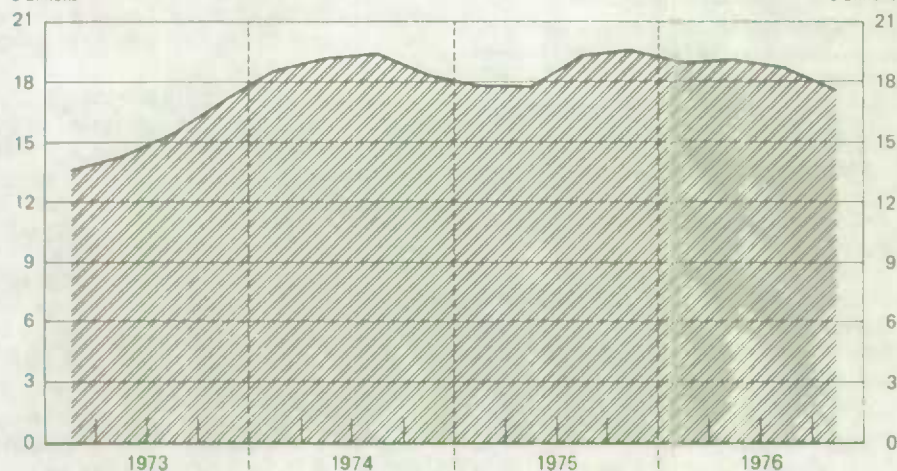
		Latest Month	Previous Month	Change From Year Ago %
<b>EMPLOYMENT, INCOME</b>				
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Jan.*	238.25p	234.49p	9.8
Labour Income (\$ million)	Dec.	9,153.2p	9,041.7p	16.6
Persons with Jobs (million)	Feb.	9.29	9.26	1.2
Unemployed	Feb.	932,000	889,000	16.5
<b>INVENTORIES</b>				
Department Store (\$ million)	Dec.	1,634	2,118	21.1
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Jan.*	16,891p	16,749r	6.7
Wholesale (\$ million)	Jan.	7,137	7,144	14.5
<b>ORDERS</b>				
Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Jan.*	8,367p	8,233r	18.0
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Jan.*	9,427p	9,207r	-6.5
<b>PRICES</b>				
Consumer Price Index (1971=100)	Feb.	155.4	154.0	6.7
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Jan.	166.1	165.1r	4.9
Wholesale Price Index (1935-39=100)	Jan.	533.0	526.5r	5.6
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>				
Building Permits (\$ million)	Dec.	775.5p	12,187.4	15.0
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Dec.	17,658	209,762	15.4
<b>ENERGY</b>				
Coal Production (thousand tons)	Dec.	2,998	28,083	0.9
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	Dec.	29.5	293.4	7.6
Natural Gas Production (billion cu. ft.)	Nov.*	304.2	3,138.7	0.4
Petroleum Refining (million barrels)	Jan.	58.3	58.3	7.4
<b>FOREIGN TRADE</b>				
Exports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Feb.	3,162	6,272	8.0
Imports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Feb.	3,186	6,189	4.9
<b>PRODUCTION</b>				
Motor Vehicles (thousand units)	Feb.*	143.6	288.4	5.4
Steel (ingots — thousand tons)	Feb.	1,160	2,379	4.0
<b>SALES</b>				
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Jan.	430.2	430.2	9.5
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Jan.*	8,147p	8,147	13.3
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Jan.	598.3	598.3	42.3
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Jan.	4,243	4,243	9.5
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	Jan.	3,665	3,665	5.8

Statistics are not seasonally adjusted. p - preliminary. r - revised. \* - new this week.

### Corporation Profits (Before Taxes)

Data Seasonally Adjusted at Annual Rates

\$ Billions



Source: National Income and Expenditure Accounts (13-001)



### Summary of External Trade

Both exports and imports of merchandise (seasonally adjusted on a balance-of-payments basis) recorded gains in February of 5% to 6% to reach the high levels of \$3,490 million and \$3,381 million, respectively. For exports, February was the third successive month of advance and for imports, the fourth.

Canada's merchandise trade surplus stood at \$109 million in February, down slightly from \$130 million in January. At \$369 million, the surplus for the three months ending in February compared with surpluses of \$522 million for the September-November period and \$354 million for the three months ending in August 1976.

The increase to \$2,363 million in exports (on a customs basis) to the United States accounted for less than 10% of the moderate over-all increase in February exports. Among largely-offsetting changes, increases were recorded in exports of automotive goods, natural gas, pulp, other industrial materials and machinery. Exports of metallic ores and concentrates (mainly of iron), lumber and crude oil declined, the last due in part to an apparent change in sourcing by U.S. west coast refineries.

Exports to overseas countries rose almost 6% to \$1,074 million in February, following a sharper recovery in the previous month. Except for the United Kingdom, exports increased to all overseas areas. Seasonally-adjusted wheat shipments rose for the third successive month.

Following a 4% decline in January, seasonally-adjusted imports (on a customs basis) from the U.S. rose almost 9% to reach the highest-recorded level of \$2,445 million in February. Well over half of this increase was due to automotive products and, in particular, to parts. Industrial machinery imports rebounded from the low level of January.

Imports from overseas countries rose 9.5% to \$1,031 million in February, with all the areas contributing. While there was a drop in crude oil landings from the high January level, increases occurred in imports of meat, industrial materials, motor vehicle parts and other equipment.

For further information on area and commodity trade, order the February 1977 issue of *Summary of External Trade* (65-001, 40¢/\$4).

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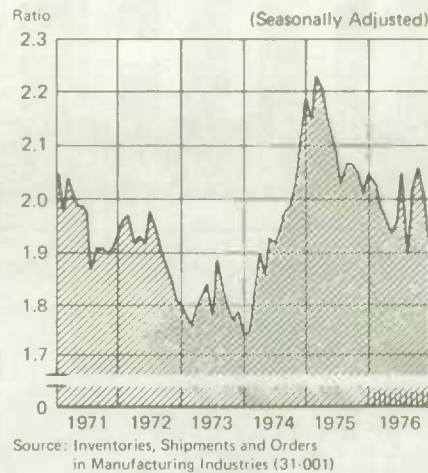
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### Ratio of Manufacturing Inventories Owned to Shipments



### Motor Vehicle Production

Canadian production of motor vehicles reached 143,585 units in February, up 5.7% from 135,900 a year earlier.

Passenger car production increased to 96,363 units in the latest month from 95,120 while production of commercial vehicles rose to 47,222 units from 40,780 in February 1976.

For the first two months of 1977, Canadian production of motor vehicles reached 288,350 units, an increase of 5.4% from 273,683 in January-February 1976.

For further information, order the February 1977 issue of *Motor Vehicle Shipments* (42-002, 15¢/\$1.50), or contact T.R. Sehdev (613-992-0388), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

### Residential Building Construction Input Price Index

(1971=100)

The residential building construction input price index for Canada rose to 168.1 in February, an increase of 0.3% from January and up 9.0% from a year earlier.

Prices of materials used in residential building construction increased 6.4% over the 12 months from February 1976; labour costs rose 13.2%.

During this period, residential building construction input price indexes advanced in all regions of Canada, with increases recorded as follows:

- Prairie Provinces, 10.9%; Atlantic Provinces, 10.6%; British Columbia, 9.6%; Ontario, 8.8%; and Quebec, 7.1%.

Labour cost indexes showed the following increases (by region): Prairie Provinces, 15.4%; Atlantic Provinces, 14.4%; Ontario, 14.0%; British Columbia, 11.7%; and Quebec, 10.3%.

For further information, order the February 1977 issue of *Construction Price Statistics, Monthly Bulletin* (62-007, \$4 per year), or contact Mrs. G. John (613-994-5807), Prices Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V5.

### Housing Starts

New residential construction activity declined in January with housing starts in Canadian centres of 10,000 population and over decreasing 7.9% to 11,470 units from 12,450 in January 1976.

Housing starts recorded in the latest month, by province and with January 1976 figures in brackets: Quebec, 3,733 (4,056); Ontario, 3,182 (3,931); British Columbia, 2,493 (1,780); Alberta, 848 (1,376); Manitoba, 476 (354); Saskatchewan, 458 (362); Nova Scotia, 196 (382); Newfoundland, 45 (47); New Brunswick, 33 (158); and Prince Edward Island, 6 (4).

For further information, order the January 1977 issue of *Housing Starts and Completions* (64-002, 40¢/\$4).

### Railway Carloadings

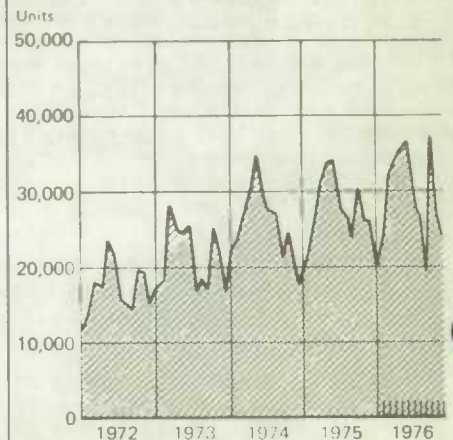
Carload and non-carload revenue freight originating on lines in Canada in February totalled 17.5 million short tons, an increase of 3.5% from a year earlier. Traffic received from United States connections was down by 12.1%.

On a commodity basis, February loadings of forest products continued to show fairly significant increases compared with the previous year, reflecting again the labour problems of that industry in 1976. Sulphur movements increased 116.0% and loadings of fertilizers (excluding potash) rose 114.9%.

In the first two months of 1976, rail freight loadings totalled 34.5 million short tons (carload and non-carload), up 3.5% over January-February 1976. Among commodities showing notable increases were pulpwood, fertilizers and sulphur. Shipments of phosphate rock declined.

For further information, order the February 1977 issue of *Railway Carloadings* (52-001, 30¢/\$3) or, for seasonally-adjusted revenue freight loadings, contact J.R. Slattery (613-996-9271), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

### Sales of New Commercial Vehicles





### Employment, Earnings and Hours

Average weekly earnings in Canadian industry at \$238.25 in January were up 9.8% from \$217.03 a year earlier.

First estimates show that (unadjusted) average weekly earnings (by province) were highest in British Columbia (\$270.26), followed by Alberta (\$248.07), Ontario (\$238.18), Newfoundland (\$234.19), Quebec (\$232.26), Saskatchewan (\$224.47), Manitoba (\$217.59), New Brunswick (\$218.64), Nova Scotia (\$204.86) and Prince Edward Island (\$185.01).

Average weekly earnings in January (by industry division) were as follows: mining, \$340.31; construction, \$336.95; forestry, \$308.92; transportation, communication and other utilities, \$273.54; manufacturing, \$255.96; finance, insurance and real estate, \$219.01; trade, \$185.11; and service, \$166.86.

Compared with January 1976, average hourly earnings were up 12.7% in manufacturing, 10.6% in construction and 9.9% in mining.

For further information, order the January 1977 issue of *Employment, Earnings and Hours* (72-002, 70¢/\$7), or contact R. Ouellette (613-992-5613), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, K1A 0V2.

### Sales Financing

Sales finance companies purchased \$181.4 million of retail finance paper in January, down 2.8% from \$186.6 million in January 1976.

The total for the latest month comprised \$41.0 million for passenger cars (\$45.6 million a year earlier), \$25.4 million for other consumer goods (\$24.0 million), \$69.8 million for commercial vehicles (\$72.9 million) and \$45.1 million for other commercial and industrial goods (\$44.1 million).

Wholesale financing undertaken by these companies during the fourth quarter of 1976 amounted to \$1,810.4 million, a decrease of 7.7% from the \$1,961.1 million financed in October-December 1975.

For further information, order the January 1977 issue of *Sales Financing* (63-013, 30¢/\$3), or contact the Retail Trade Section (613-996-9304), Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

### Asbestos

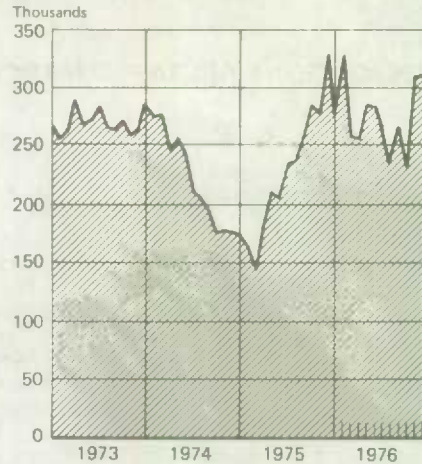
Canadian producers' shipments of asbestos increased to 132,482 short tons in February from 127,188 short tons in February 1976.

Shipments for the first two months of 1977 totalled 254,338 short tons, up 2.0% from 249,375 short tons in January-February 1976.

For further information, order the February 1977 issue of *Asbestos* (26-001, 15¢/\$1.50), or contact Art Symons (613-992-0491), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

### Housing Starts in Canada

Seasonally Adjusted at Annual Rates



Source: Housing Starts and Completions (64-002)

### Major Appliances

Sales of television sets and freezers continued to decline in January but Canadian manufacturers' sales of other major appliances ran above year-earlier levels.

Major appliance sales recorded by these manufacturers in the latest month, with January 1976 figures in brackets:

- Refrigerators, 32,765 units (32,161); home and farm freezers, 16,524 (34,297).
- Stoves and ranges (electric), 29,045 (24,466).
- Automatic washing machines, 27,283 (25,442); electric and gas clothes dryers, 26,957 (23,859).
- Television sets, 27,986 (32,479).

Canadian manufacturers sold 25,458 colour television sets on the domestic market in January, a decrease of 12.6% from a year earlier; black-and-white set sales fell 24.9% to 2,528 units.

For further information, order the January 1977 issues of: *Domestic Refrigerators and Freezers* (43-001, 15¢/\$1.50); *Stoves and Furnaces* (41-005, 30¢/\$3); *Domestic Washing Machines and Clothes Dryers* (43-002, 15¢/\$1.50); and *Radio and Television Receiving Sets* (43-004, 30¢/\$3); or contact T.R. Sehdev (613-992-0388), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

### Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production

Crude petroleum production for December amounted to 1.68 million barrels per day, up 4.5% from a year earlier.

Natural gas production averaged 10.50 billion cubic feet per day in the latest month, an increase of 2.0% from December 1975.

For further information, order the December 1976 issue of *Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production* (26-006, 30¢/\$3), or contact G.R. Kitchen (613-992-4021), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

### Real Domestic Product (1971=100)

The seasonally-adjusted index of real domestic product remained relatively unchanged in January at a level of 125.0 compared to 124.9 in December. Output of goods-producing industries decreased 0.3% while service-producing industries rose 0.3%.

In goods-producing industries, agriculture, forestry and mining declined. Manufacturing, construction, utilities and fishing and trapping each recorded increases.

In agriculture, lower crop estimates for 1977 compared to 1976 were mainly responsible for the drop. The decrease in mining was due to a sharp decline in production of crude petroleum. In manufacturing, non durables increased 0.6% while durables remained unchanged. The advance in non-durables manufacturing was due mainly to output gains in food and beverages, tobacco products, paper and allied industries, petroleum and coal products, and chemical and chemical products industries. In durables manufacturing, significant increases were recorded in the wood industries and primary metals industries. These gains were offset by significant declines in the transportation equipment, electrical products and non-metallic mineral products industries.

In service-producing industries, increases were recorded in almost all components.

In transportation, storage and communication, the communication component advanced, but transportation and storage were down primarily because of declines in railway transport, pipeline transport and grain elevators. In trade, both wholesale and retail trade were up, due to increases for wholesale merchants, wholesalers of petroleum products and motor vehicle dealers. The only significant decline in retail trade occurred in food stores (coinciding with a sharp rise in the consumer price index for food).

For further information, order the January 1977 issue of *Indexes of Real Domestic Product by Industry* (including the Index of Industrial Production), (61-005, 40¢/\$4), or contact R.W. Collins (613-995-0443), Industry Product Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

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Building Permits, January  
Consumer Price Index, March  
Department Store Sales by Regions, February  
General Wholesale Price Index, February  
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The Labour Force, March

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